

PROTECTING LANGUAGE RIGHTS PROMOTING LINGUISTIC PLURALISM

2015 IALC Conference



uOttawa

Institut des langues officielles
et du bilinguisme (ILOB)

Official Languages and
Bilingualism Institute (OLBI)



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANGUAGE COMMISSIONERS



I am proud and honoured to welcome you to the second conference of the International Association of Language Commissioners, organized by the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada and the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute of the University of Ottawa.

Following the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism in 1967, Canada introduced the *Official Languages Act* in 1969 and enshrined the key principles of the Act in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in 1982. Since then, the Act has been amended twice: first in 1988, to bring it into conformity with the Charter, and then in 2005, when federal institutions were given a legally binding obligation to promote the use of English and French and to take positive measures to enhance the vitality and development of minority language communities. I hope that this conference can give participants a better understanding of the changing dynamics of Canada's linguistic challenges and successes, both in terms of its official languages (English and French) and

its Aboriginal languages. In the years since the Royal Commission, Canada has strengthened its support of both official languages, and support for Canada's language policies has grown across the country. Increasingly, Canadians see linguistic duality as an essential part of Canadian identity.

Canada's language policy was developed after a careful study of experiences in other countries. It is therefore important to have a forum for those who receive and investigate complaints from citizens whose language rights have been infringed, in order to discuss successes and challenges with others who are dealing with similar issues. There are no one-size-fits-all solutions, but we can all learn from the experience of others. I hope that this conference can help us all learn from our very different experiences in holding governments to account, in promoting and protecting linguistic pluralism, in wrestling with the challenges of protecting and promoting indigenous languages, and in using linguistic accommodation as a tool for achieving peace and stability in post-conflict environments.

I wish you a warm welcome and hope that you have an informative and rewarding conference.

Graham Fraser
President of the International Association of Language Commissioners
Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the second conference of the International Association of Language Commissioners (IALC). Canada is a proud multi-cultural and multi-lingual nation endeavouring to protect its diverse languages and dialects. The *Official Languages Act*, established in 1969, created the Office of the Commissioner of the official language and works to ensure respect and equality for speakers of both official languages and linguistic minorities in Canada.

Language is a central defining element of human beings. It is used to think, express thoughts and emotions, create social bonds, and transmit cultural practices. It is part of our identity both as individuals and as a nation. However, we face the risk of having minority languages disappear as the world becomes increasingly globalized and uniform. It is important that we work to reverse this trend by educating ourselves on the current challenges and best practices for linguistic preservation and revitalization. To do so, we have here planned debates around the issues of holding governments accountable, promoting and protecting linguistic pluralism, preserving and revitalizing aboriginal/indigenous and minority languages, and exploring the use of language in post-conflict environments.

The conference addresses the results from in-depth studies and debates among top scholars in language and bilingualism studies from around the world. In addition to our Canadian experts, this year's IALC Conference welcomes speakers from the UK, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, Kosovo and India, to name a few.

This diverse group of experts brings together various perspectives on language protection and preservation to help us better understand these issues as they affect different parts of the world.

It has been a great pleasure to work jointly with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada (OCOL) in organizing this conference and we hope to collaborate on future events. I wish you all a pleasant and informative conference.



Richard Clément, PhD, FRSC
Professor of Psychology
Director of the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute
Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts

GUESTS SPEAKERS



Johan Häggman

Johan Häggman has worked 14 years in Brussels promoting regional and minority languages. First he was a project officer for the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages, then a policy advisor for the liberal group in the European Parliament and finally seven and a half years for the European Commission; he was a member of cabinet for the Commissioner for Multilingualism Leonard Orban and an Information and Communication officer and team coordinator, responsible for the multilingualism events and studies. He graduated in political sciences (politices magister) from Åbo Akademi University in Finland and holds a master's degree in international relations from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain.



Nicoletta Mariolini

Nicoletta Mariolini took office as Federal Delegate for Plurilingualism on August 1, 2013. With this function the Swiss Federal Administration wants to nurture the roots of national cohesion by investing in the linguistic capital of its employees and by valuing that of all the territorial entities. Prior to her nomination, Ms. Mariolini was in charge of the Departments of Education and of Integration and Social Information in the government of the City of Lugano, as well as a Member of Parliament of the Canton of Tessin.



Naiomi W. Metallic

Naiomi W. Metallic is an associate lawyer at Burchells LLP in Halifax, called to the bar in February 2008. Originally from the Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation on the Gaspé Coast of Québec, she is alumni of Dalhousie Law School, and the University of Ottawa's Civil Law program and is currently obtaining an LLM from Osgoode Hall at York University with a focus on administrative and constitutional law. She was the first Mi'gmaq person to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada. She is a member of her firm's Aboriginal and Litigation practice groups. She also sits on the Nova Scotia Barristers' Bar Council and Racial Equity Committee, the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission and the Dalhousie Board of Governors. Naiomi contributed chapters on Aboriginal language issues in Michel Bastarache's texts, *The Law of Bilingual Interpretation* (LexisNexis: 2008) and *Les Droits Linguistiques au Canada, 3ième ed.* (Éditions Yvon Blais: 2013).

GUESTS SPEAKERS



Pär Stenbäck

Pär Stenbäck is a Finnish politician and debater. He received an Honorary Minister title in 1999. Mr. Stenbäck was a member of the City Council of Espoo, and also the Finnish Parliament (1970-1985). He was the Minister of Education (1979 to 1982), Minister of Foreign Relations (1982 to 1983), and Party Leader of the Swedish People's Party (1977 to 1985). He was the General Secretary for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva. Between 1992 and 1997 he functioned as the Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers in Copenhagen. In 1991, he took part in the founding of the International Youth Foundation (IYF), now situated in Baltimore, as a director (1991-1996), thereafter as VP for Europe until 2005. In 2001, together with ambassador K-E. Norrman, he founded the European Cultural Parliament, where he was the Chairman of the Senate. Since 1995 he is a board member of the International Crisis Group (ICG) and its Executive Committee.



Akhtarul Wasey

Akhtarul Wasey was appointed National Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India in March 2014. He was a professor of Islamic studies at Jamia Millia Islamia (National Islamic University) in New Delhi. Professor Wasey is recognized as a distinguished academic specializing in the multidisciplinary study of Islam and Indian Muslims. He is also recognized as an able administrator of many institutions concerned with socio-cultural affairs of the Indian Muslims. Currently he is the Vice Chairman of Delhi Urdu Academy; Member of the Executive Board of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language; and President of India Interfaith Coalition on HIV/AIDS, apart from holding several other positions and assignments, such as dean, head of the Department of Islamic Studies and Faculty of Humanities and Languages, Jamia Millia Islamia. In 2013 Professor Wasey received a Padma Shri award, one of the highest civilian awards of the country, from President Pranab Mukherjee, honoring him as a distinguished academician, specializing in the multidisciplinary study of Islam and Indian Muslims.

Professor Wasey has delivered many lectures both in and outside India. The prominent international engagements include his addresses at The McGill Institute of Islamic Studies, Montreal, Loyola University, Chicago, Cincinnati University, Hofstra University, New York, Malang University, Indonesia, and Punjab University, Lahore. He has thirty six books on Islam, Muslims, mysticism and contemporary issues to his credit as author, editor and translator, apart from five hundred articles in Hindi, Urdu, and English. His writings are also translated into Arabic, Persian and French.



Colin Williams

Colin Williams is Research Professor in the School of Welsh, Cardiff University, U.K. His main scholarly interests are Sociolinguistics and Language Policy in Multicultural Societies, Ethnic and Minority Relations and Political Geography. He has previously taught in Universities in Canada, England and the USA. He has held visiting appointments at the Pennsylvania State University (1982-1983), University of Lund (1982 and 1988), MHSO Toronto (1993), Oxford University (2001-2002, and 2010), and University of Ottawa (2009-2010). Between April 2000 and March 2010 he served as a National Assembly for Wales appointed member of the Welsh Language Board and subsequently as an Adviser concentrating on international aspects of Language Policy and Intergovernmental Relations until the WLB's closure in 2012. He is the author/editor of eighteen books the most recent of which are: *Language and Governance*, University of Wales Press, 2007; *Linguistic Minorities in Democratic Context*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008 (pbk) 2013; *Rights, Promotion and Integration Issues for Minority Languages in Europe*, co-editor with S. Pertot and T. Priestly, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009; *'Linguistic Minorities in Democratic Context'* Palgrave Macmillan, 2008; *Minority Language Promotion, Protection and Regulation: The Mask of Piety*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. He is currently engaged in research projects on comparing the office of Language Commissioner in Canada and Europe and on the role of Language Boards in Europe.

PANEL CHAIRS



Geneviève Boudreau

Geneviève Boudreau is the Director of the Language Rights Support Program since 2010. As Director, Ms. Boudreau manages files of national importance that aim to clarify and help advance the state of constitutional language rights in Canada.

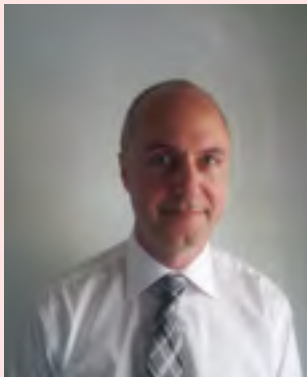
After her legal training, Ms. Boudreau obtained a Masters of Business Administration from the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa in 2014. She was the Executive Director of the Fédération provinciale des comités de parents in Manitoba and Assistant Chairperson of a dispute resolution committee in the field of aboriginal law.

PANEL CHAIRS



Claude Denis

Claude Denis is a Full Professor and former Director (2013-2014) at the School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa, where he was also director of the Centre on Governance (2003-2005) and adjunct professor in the Institute of Canadian Studies (2006-2012). Previously, he was professor of sociology (1989-2003) and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (1997-2000), at Faculté Saint-Jean, University of Alberta. He has been Visiting Professor at the John F. Kennedy Institut für Nordamerika Studien, Freie Universität, Berlin (Germany); the Department of International Relations and History, Universidad de las Americas – Puebla (Mexico); and the departments of sociology of the Université de Montréal and the University of Victoria (both in Canada). He received a Certificate of Merit from the International Council for Canadian Studies (2005). Claude Denis is the author of *We Are Not You. First Nations and Canadian Modernity* (1997) and of many articles, and editor of two books. He works on federal politics and nationalisms in Canada and on Mexican politics, with a focus on the interplay between democracy, citizenship, security and human rights. He has also published on indigenous politics and francophone minorities in Canada. He holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of Toronto.



Pierre Coulombe

Pierre Coulombe is Director of the Performance Measurement Division at the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages in Canada, where he has worked since 2007. He joined the Public Service of Canada in 1999, working on the language policy file at the Privy Council Office. Prior to joining the Public Service, M. Coulombe taught Canadian politics and political theory at various universities for ten years. He completed his undergraduate (BSc 1986) and graduate studies (MA 1988; PhD 1992) at the University of Ottawa and at the University of Western Ontario.



Carsten Quell

Carsten Quell has a background in linguistics and Canadian studies and has worked in both the public and the private sectors. At Canadian Heritage he worked in the Canadian Culture Online Branch before joining the Policy Research Group of the Department. Since 2008, he has been Director of Policy and Research at the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages. During a two-year assignment at Treasury Board Secretariat he led the review of the Official Languages Policy Suite for the Public Service.

Early in his career, before moving to Ottawa, he taught at the Lycée Français de Toronto and later managed translation and international communications for the e-commerce company Tucows Inc. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto and an M.A. from the Free University of Berlin.

8:15 Registration and Coffee

9:00 Welcoming Remarks
Gary Slater, Associate Vice-President, Student Affairs, University of Ottawa

9:10 Opening Speech
Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages, Canada

9:30 **LANGUAGE RIGHTS: HOLDING GOVERNMENTS TO ACCOUNT**

Panel 1: Making Your Advice Stick – the Art of Recommendations and Follow-up

Discussion of tools, resources and strategies of Language Commissioners to move Governments towards implementing Official Languages Policy

Chair: **Graham Fraser**, Commissioner of Official Languages, Canada

Panelists:

François Boileau, French Language Services Commissioner, Ontario, Canada
Katherine d'Entremont, Commissioner of Official Languages, New Brunswick, Canada
Meri Huws, Welsh Language Commissioner, Wales, UK
Rónán Ó Domhnaill, Irish Language Commissioner, Ireland
Rafael Ribó, Catalan Ombudsman, Cataluña, Spain

10:45 Break

11:15 **Panel 2: Government Responsiveness**

Presentation and discussion by institutional representatives on the impact of the Official Languages Commissioner on Government operations

Chair: **Pierre Coulombe**, Director, Performance Measurement Directorate, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Canada

Panelists:

Kelly Burke, Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of Francophone Affairs, Ontario
Stéphane Cloutier, Director, Official Languages Division, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, Nunavut, Canada
Line Pinet, Director, Canadian Francophonie and Official Languages, Executive Council Office, New Brunswick, Canada
Marc Tremblay, Executive Director, Official Languages Centre of Excellence, Treasury Board Secretariat, Canada

12:30 Lunch

1:30 **THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF LINGUISTIC PLURALISM**

Keynote Speaker:

Nicoletta Mariolini, Swiss Federal Delegate of Plurilingualism, Switzerland

2:00 **Panel 3: Changing Hearts and Minds about the Value of Linguistic Pluralism**

Presentation and discussion of the power of liaison work, studies, policy work, and community involvement in influencing Government responsiveness

Chair: **Carsten Quell**, Director, Policy and Research, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Canada

Panelists:

Philip Fenez, President, Canadian Parents for French, Canada
Matthew Hayday, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada
Michelle Landry, Professor of Sociology, Campus de Shippagan, Université de Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada
Dyfan Sion, Director of Policy and Research, Office of the Welsh Language Commissioner, Wales, UK

3:15 Break

3:30 **Panel 4: Ensuring Compliance, Upholding Rights – When All Else Fails: Taking the Legal Route**

Presentation and discussion on measures, mechanisms and legal instruments in place or to be created to ensure compliance, respect and promotion of language rights by Governments and public institutions

Chair: **Geneviève Boudreau**, Director, Language Rights Support Program, Canada

Panelists:

Pascale Giguère, Senior Counsel and Manager, Legal Affairs Branch, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Canada
Roger LePage, Lawyer, Miller Thompson LLP, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
Mark Power, Lawyer, Power Law, Ottawa, Canada
Renée Soublière, Senior Counsel, Litigation Coordinator and Supervisor, Official Languages Directorate, Justice Canada

4:45 Conclusion - Day 1: **Richard Clément**, Director, Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute

5:30 Reception hosted by the University of Ottawa, including a presentation on the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain in Ontario

8:15 Registration and Coffee

9:00 Welcoming Remarks
Meri Huws, Welsh Language Commissioner, Wales, UK

9:15 **LANGUAGE AND GROUP CONFLICT**

Keynote Speakers:

Pär Stenbäck, former Minister of Education and former Minister of Foreign Relations, Finland; former General Secretary for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Geneva

Johan Häggman, Researcher, International Affairs, former Policy Officer and Coordinator of Multilingualism and Translation Studies, European Commission; former Policy Advisor to the European Parliament; former Project Officer, European Bureau of Lesser-Used Languages, Brussels

10:15 Break

10:30 Case Studies: Linguistic Accommodation and Stabilization in Post-conflict Environments

Presenters:

Slaviša Mladenović, Language Commissioner, Kosovo
 Representative from Sri Lanka (To be confirmed)

11:30 **THE PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION OF ABORIGINAL/INDIGENOUS AND MINORITY LANGUAGES**

Module 1: Protecting and Promoting Indigenous and Minority Languages from an International Perspective

Keynote Speaker: **Akhtarul Wasey**, National Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India

12:15 Lunch

1:15 **Module 2: Aboriginal Languages in Canada**

Keynote Speaker:

Naiomi W. Metallic, Lawyer, Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Rights, Burchells LLP, Halifax, Nova Scotia

2:00 **Panel 5: Protecting and Promoting Aboriginal Languages in Canada: our Experience, Best Practices and Challenges**

Presentation and discussion by representatives of Government institutions, by practitioners and by researchers on current experiences, best practices, studies, and existing challenges in protecting and promoting Aboriginal languages in Canada

Chair: **Claude Denis**, Professor, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa, Canada

Panelists:

Sandra Inutiq, Official Language Commissioner of Nunavut, Nunavut, Canada
Bonnie Jane Maracle, Aboriginal Learning Strategist, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Marie-Odile Junker, Killam Research Fellow, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Rhonda L. Paulsen, Professor of Indigenous Studies, Trent University, Ontario, Canada

3:15 Break

3:30 Rapporteur: **Colin Williams**, Professor, Cardiff University, Wales, UK

4:15 Closing Remarks: **Graham Fraser**, Commissioner of Official Languages, Canada